



City of Ann Arbor

100 N. Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
www.a2gov.org

Text File

File Number: 08-1128

Agenda #

Introduced: 12/15/2008

Version: 1

Current Status: Clerk's Report

Matter Type: Report or Communication

Communication from Emile Lauzzana regarding the Historic District study for the area of Main and south of William

Bowden (King), Anissa

From: Kahan, Jeffrey
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 12:47 PM
To: Pulcifer, Connie; Lloyd, Mark; Bowden (King), Anissa
Subject: FW: historic district for the area East of Main and South of William

Hi Anissa,

This was just sent to me regarding an agenda item for tonight's meeting.

Thanks.

Jeff

From: Emile Lauzzana [mailto:lauzzana@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:57 AM
To: Kahan, Jeffrey
Subject: historic district for the area East of Main and South of William

Hello Jeff,

I am surprised to hear that a proposal will be discussed and perhaps action taken regarding the allocation of funds and resources to study a new historic district in the downtown area. Though I would like to be at tonight's council meeting, I will not be able to attend. I would, however, like to make a few comments for the record regarding this issue.

1- The City has adopted a wise direction in developing the Greenbelt and encouraging density in the City Center. Adding historic districts at this time is contradictory to these efforts.

2- Many of the City's Historic Districts resemble "spot zoning" as evidenced by their peculiar shapes which meander through areas selecting specific parcels for inclusion and excluding others. Though they are legally recognized at this time, their long-term viability is questionable.

3- The development community has repeatedly been encouraged by the City to provide a greater sense of transparency and inclusion in its proposals. Citizens groups who are engaged in discussions regarding development in the City should also be encouraged to provide greater transparency and inclusion for all stakeholders. The surprise nature of this proposal should be evidence enough that it should be denied or tabled at this time, pending greater inclusion of all stakeholders.

Though I understand the romantic attraction of the older homes in the City center, there are thousands of similar homes in the area, many of which are permanently protected for future generations. In this time of rapid climate change and energy insecurity, sacrifices will have to be made - I do hope the Council will have the strength and leadership to guide this great City through these difficult times of change and opportunity.

Sincerely,

Emile Lauzzana
cell - 734.769.5513
website - emilelauzzana.com

12/15/2008